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FOR GUY FARMER

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SUBJECT: HAIG COMMENTS ON SPAIN
1. SPAIN WAS NOT RAISED IN FRENCH TV ANTENNE II INTERVIEW.
2. ON FEBRUARY 23, IN THE DIPLOMATIC LOBBY OF STATE, AS HE SAW FRANCOIS-PONCET TO HIS CAR, THE SECRETARY DID RESPOND TO QUESTION ON SPAIN TOWARDS THE END OF A BRIEF SESSION WITH REPORTERS. THE QUESTION CAME AFTER A QUESTION TO FRANCIOS-PONCET ON THE EUROPEAN MIDDLE EAST INITIATIVE AND BEFORE A QUESTION TO THE SECRETARY ON CHAD AND FRENCH POLICY THERE.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, COULD YOU TALK ABOUT SPAIN?

SECRETARY HAIG: THE FIRST (SIC) QUESTION IS ON SPAIN. WE HAVE NOTHING TO SAY TODAY, OTHER THAN TO SAY THAT WE HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING THE SITUATION AS IT HAS DEVELOPED. IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO MAKE ANY COMMENTS. IT IS AN INTERNAL MATTER.

3. YOU ARE AWARE OF THE DYESS ANNOUNCEMENT AT NOON ON THE 24TH. IN CASE YOU DO NOT HAVE FULL TEXT, THAT READS QUOTE OVER THE PAST 24 HOURS, WE HAVE FOLLOWED THE EVENTS IN SPAIN WITH GREAT INTEREST AND ATTENTION. WE NOTE THAT THE CHALLENGE TO SPANISH DEMOCRACY WAS LIMITED TO A SMALL NUMBER OF PEOPLE. THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE ARMED FORCES AND THE SPANISH PEOPLE REMAINED LOYAL TO THE KING AND TO THE CONSTITUTION. LIKE ALL FRIENDS OF THAT COUNTRY, WE JOIN IN EXPRESSING OUR CONGRATULATIONS ON THE SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION OF THE CRISIS AND ON THE STRENGTH SHOWN BY THE INSTITUTIONS AND LEADERS OF SPAIN´S NEW DEMOCRACY. THE ROLE AND LEADERSHIP OF KING JUAN CARLOS WERE CLEARLY INSTRUMENTAL IN ENDING THE CRISIS AND DESERVE PARTICULAR ADMIRATION CLOSE QUOTE.
4. WHILE IT DOES NOT SOLVE YOUR PARTICULAR PROBLEM, JULIAN FERNANDEZ JUST REPORTED TO ME THAT THE SECRETARY, FOLLOWING A WHITE HOUSE MEETING WITH FRG FOREIGN MINISTER TODAY, SAID QUOTE WE DISCUSSED THE CONTINUING DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IN SPAIN AND HOPE IT WILL CONTINUE UNINTERRUPTED. UNQUOTE.
SHIRLEY, ACTING
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9 - MAR 1981

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